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*Droþena dréarung . . . . .*

*Wearmlíc wolcna scúr . . . .*

And these other passages are also worthy of consideration :

*Déaw and déor scúr . . . .*

"Daniel," 372.

*Scúr seal on heofenum*

*Winde geblanden in þás woruld cuman.*

"Vers. Gnom. Cott.," 40.

*And he áriman mæg rægnas [rægnas?] scúran*  
*Droþena gehwelcne.*

"Satan," II.

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### BEACON BEEKENES.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—In reference to Prof. Cameron's explanation of *beekenes* (MOD. LANG. NOTES. for Nov. 1892), I desire to call attention to Murray's 'N. E. D.,' where the meaning "lighthouse" is given under *beacon*, and where, among others, the following quotation is found: "1397 *Act 21 Richard III*, xviii. §1 Les Beekenes devant le port Moeges." Two remarks seem to be called for. First, *Richard III* is a misprint for *Richard II*. Secondly, Murray evidently quotes the same passage as E. M. in *L'Intermédiaire*. But Murray reads *Moeges illocques*, a difference in reading that is easy of explanation. Does the name Moeges occur elsewhere?

The equivalent of our *beacon* occurs in Modern Dutch, also in Modern German, where it is *Bak* or *Bake*. Sanders defines it as follows:

"Merkzeichen, sowohl die das Fahrwasser bezeichnenden Wassertonnen, als auch die für die einseigelnden Schiffe als Wahrzeichen errichteten hölzernen Gebäude am Ufer, und die auf den Thürmen u.s.w. brennenden Blusen,"

etc. Of course, it is *niederdeutsch*.

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### ON A PASSAGE IN THE PETERBOROUGH CHRONICLE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—In the OE. Chronicle under date of

1135 is a sentence that seems to have been a puzzle to editors. It reads as follows:

*"þa wes tre sona þas landes, for æuric man sone ræuede oþer þe mihte."*

At *tre* Thorpe says a new scribe begins. He proposed to read *trege* < OE. *trega* 'affliction, grief' for *tre*, but there is in the MS. no authority for this, and the meaning of *trege* would hardly be strong enough for this place. In the edition of Earle and Plummer just out ('Two of the Saxon Chronicles,' Oxford, 1892) the sentence is printed "*þa westre sona þas landes* etc.," as in the original edition by Earle. The glossary, however, gives no other explanation of this new word *westre* than to say 'obscure word' and cite the passage. Würzner in *Anglia* viii *Anz.* 21 proposes to read *pre* < OE. *prēa* 'misery, trouble,' but *t* for *p* regularly occurs in the last part of the Chronicle only after *d*, or *t*, and then only in the case of the article *þe* so this reading is hardly probable. It may also be said, that in all the above attempts at elucidation *sona* is left unexplained, and yet if this is OE. *sona* 'soon' it commonly appears in this part of the Chronicle as *sone* or *son*, both of which occur.

For this obscure passage let me propose another explanation, for which there seems to be some authority both in the forms of language and in the facts of history. The reading I propose is,

*"þa wes treson a þas landes, etc."*

In support of this reading, 'there was treason in those lands,' it may be said that *wes* is a common form of OE. *wæs* in the last part of the Chronicle, as often in ME. As for *treson* < Norm. F. *treson*, *treison* it occurs in the OE. Homilies (Morris) I, 279 in the form *tresun*, and *tresun*, *treson* are found in other texts, beside *traison*, *trayson* with the diphthong. For the form *a* for *on*, with the sense of *in*, it may be compared with "*o þe norð*" in the entry for 1131, and "*o þe land*" under 1137. Moreover this *a=on* actually occurs in this same Laud MS. under the year 1087, as well as occasionally in the other Chronicle MSS. It therefore can not be regarded as an impossible form for this text.

The proposed reading also suits the historic-

al facts of the year in question. The trouble breaking out at the close of the reign of Henry I. was due to what an English Chronicler might rightly call treason, since the nobles in Normandy were refusing to acknowledge Stephen as king, and it was owing to this abandonment of a settled government, that the murder and bloodshed so vividly pictured by the Chroniclers was due. In the 'Historia Johannis Prioris Hagustaldensis ecclesiae' occur these words on the death of Henry I :

"Quo mortuo, continuo, emeruerunt homines scelesti & peccatores, cuncta jura justitiae & pacis dissipantes, & ad direptiones, & caedes, incendia, & alia flagitia hostiliter proruentes."

The 'Historia piae memoriae Ricardi Prioris Hagustaldensis ecclesiae' has words of similar import. In Ordericus Vitalis there is a Latin poem on the death of Henry I, in which these lines occur.

"Tollere quisque cupit jam passim res alienas  
Rebus in injustis en quisque relaxat habenas.  
  
Luce patet clara quod eis pax extat amara;  
Quam mox spreverunt, ut regem fata tulerunt,  
Pro nece patritii fures lætantur iniqui;  
Prædones avidi discurrunt ad mala prompti,  
Jamque putant quod nullus eos herus amodo jure  
Arceat."

Finally Florence of Worcester puts the case even more strongly.

"Quo sepulto, et Stephano regnante, necnon multo ante, ubique locorum per Angliam et Normanniam, diruptio pacis foedere, plurimum fit disturbatio. Quisque in alterum caput elevat; quae oritur discordia, in vastando omnia nobilium et ignobilium, alta magna ac diversa subintrat moenia; quisque alium rebus spoliât, potius impotentem vi opprimit, quaestam super hoc agentem minis territat, neci traditur qui resistat."

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#### A RECENT ESTIMATE OF BEN JONSON.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—The following paragraph from Vol. I of Fleay's 'Biographical Chronicle of the English Drama,' London, 1891, will perhaps interest those who have perused Professor Schelling's admirable edition of 'Timber.' The extract is from pp. 13-14:

"I cannot pass over in silence one point which has been impressed on me at every step in this long labor—the central importance of Ben Jonson. Fourteen years since, in a conversation with the present Laureate at his Haslemere mansion, he rebuked me for my comparatively low estimate of his illustrious predecessor; and although he has since forgotten me (for what reason I know not), I have not forgotten one word of the many weighty apothegms which he uttered in that two days' converse. I have since then studied Jonson deeply, and I do not exaggerate when I say that, although Shakespeare is the central figure in our dramatic literature, Jonson certainly is the central figure in our dramatic history. In the variety of his work, plays, poems, masks, entertainments, and especially in his *Discoveries* (the full value of which has been appreciated, as far as I know, by no one till Mr. Swinburne . . .); . . . and in his unique knowledge, among dramatists of his time, of the only other dramatic literature of anything like equal importance with our own,—he stands preëminently foremost."

On the date of composition Mr. Fleay has a note (on p. 333): "*Timber*, or *Discoveries*. Not those burned in the 1623 fire. These date 1623-35. See Swinburne's excellent essay on this work, which, fortunately for me, needs no further comment here." What will Mr. Fleay say to Schelling's note on p. 4, l. 15?

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#### BRIEF MENTION.

The Tenth Annual Convention of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA will be held in Columbian University (15th and H Streets), Washington, D. C., on December 28, 29 and 30. An address on "Recollections of Language Teaching" will be delivered on the evening of the 28th by the President of the Association, Professor FRANCIS A. MARCH of *Lafayette College, Pa.* Papers will be presented as follows: 1. "The Gardner's Daughter; or the Pictures," Professor JOHN PHELPS FRUIT, *Bethel College, Ky.*—2. "The Tales of Uncle Remus traced to the Old World," Professor A. GERBER, *Earlham College, Ind.*—3. "A Grouping of Figures of Speech, based upon the Principle of their Effectiveness," Professor HERBERT E. GREENE, *Wells College, N. Y.*—4. "The Legend of the Holy Grail," Professor GEO. M. HARPER,